

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E. O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SCHLESINGER JAMES, R.)

SUBJECT: TEXT OF SCHLESINGER STATEMENT ON GERMAN
TELEVISION

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN EXCHANGE BY
SECRETARY SCHLESINGER MONDAY WITH GERMAN TELEVISION.
THE EXCHANGE, IN ENGLISH, WAS TRANSCRIBED FROM A TAPE
RECORDING.

2. QUESTION: TWO MORE AMERICAN BRIGADES IN GERMANY
BUT 18,000 MEN OF YOUR TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN. DOES
THAT MEAN AN INCREASE OR A REDUCTION OF AMERICAN TROOPS
IN GERMANY?

ANSWER: THERE WILL BE NEITHER AN INCREASE OR
REDUCTION IN AMERICAN TROOPS IN GERMANY. UNDER THE
NUNN-AMENDMENT, WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO INCREASE THE COMBAT
CAPABILITIES OF U.S. FORCES IN GERMANY, AND WE PLAN TO
REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SUPPORT TROOPS OVER A TWO-YEAR
PERIOD BY 18,000. WE WILL BE ADDING - AT LEAST - THE
EQUIVALENT OF TWO BRIGADES - IT WILL BE MORE THAN TWO
BRIGADES, IT WILL INCLUDE AN ARTILLERY BATTALION AND
SOME OTHER COMBAT ELEMENTS. THAT IS OUR INTENTION AT THE
PRESENT TIME. THE OVERALL EFFECT WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY
TO INCREASE AMERICAN COMBAT CAPABILITY IN GERMANY AND
BRING OUR FORCES UP TO THE LEVEL OF 1966 BEFORE THE
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WITHDRAWAL OF TWO THIRDS OF A DIVISION, WHICH OCCURRED IN

1967. THIS IS ASSOCIATED, AS YOU KNOW, WITH THE REFORGER PROGRAM OF BRINGING TWO BRIGADES HERE ANNUALLY. WE WOULD INTEND TO STATION THOSE BRIGADES IN GERMANY. QUESTION: WHAT SORT OF CHANGE OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT HAVE YOU PLANNED?

ANSWER: WE ARE NOT PLANNING AT THIS STAGE ANY CHANGE IN NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT, SAVE FOR THE PROGRAM CHANGES WHICH INCLUDE BRINGING A LARGER NUMBER OF LANCES INTO GERMANY. THE INTENTION OVERALL, HAS BEEN TO STRENGTHEN OUR NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES OUR TACTICAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE ARE STRENGTHENING OUR CONVENTIONAL FORCES. FOR THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE THESE TYPES OF INCREASES IN STRENGTH TO MATCH THE GRADUAL GROWTH OF THE POWER OF THE WARSAW PACT.

QUESTION: BESIDE A FRIENDSHIP VISIT, ARE YOU LOOKING AT ANYTHING SPECIFIC DURING YOUR TRIP TO GERMANY OR DISCUSSING ANY CONCRETE ISSUES?

ANSWER: WE ARE GOING TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF THE POSSIBLE AREAS OF STATIONING THE TWO BRIGADES THAT WERE MENTIONED EARLIER. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING FUTURE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE FOR THE NATO ALLIANCE TO ASSURE THAT THE NATO ALLIANCE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN PROVIDING SECURITY FOR WESTERN EUROPE IN THE 25 YEARS AHEAD, SHOULD THAT BE NECESSARY, AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE LAST 25 YEARS. THOSE HAVE BEEN THE MAJOR ITEMS THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING.

3. WE WERE INFORMED BY THE SECRETARY'S PARTY THAT A TAPE RECORDING OF THE TUESDAY JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH MINISTER LEBER WAS TO BE TRANSCRIBED AND SENT TO DOD TUESDAY EVENING. WE ASSUME IT WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PENTAGON.
HILLENBRAND

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